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FROM : Information Control, OSO

COUNTRY : Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT : Deutsches Institut für Sozialökonomische Probleme  
(German Institute for Social Economic Problems)

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1. The Deutsches Institut für Sozialökonomische Probleme was founded by the SED in May 1946. Its purpose was ostensibly the making of social opinion surveys, similar to those of the Gallup Institute in the United States. Since its founding, however, the organization has spread throughout the Russian Zone and become the largest agent network maintained by the SED. It employs several thousand agents who furnish weekly reports to the SED on political and economic matters among businessmen, housewives, and other branches of the population. Agents may be assigned by city areas and blocks, by occupational groups, or by individual businesses.

2. German administration support of the Institute is evidenced from a circular seen on the island of Rügen, in which the Rügen Island criminal police notified all hotel and pension proprietors that they must answer any questions concerning themselves or their guests put to them by field workers of the Deutsches Institut.

NOTE: According to CIC information, the German Institute for Social-Economic Problems is the cover organization for the German staff of the SSB, the Soviet News Bureau, giving outwardly the appearance of a research organization. While neither the SSB nor the German Institute are intelligence organizations, both serve, according to CIC, as agencies collecting and preparing material of intelligence value to the SBA and the Soviet government.

An Institute for Socio-economic Problems, possibly identical with subject organization, was listed along with the German Central Administrations, in the Soviet zone of Germany in a report on SBA-approved budget proposals for the first quarter of 1947.

ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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